

Teachers' Retirement Board

Agency Overview - Highlights

August 2015

Prepared by the Legislative Services Division

For the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

Teachers' Retirement Board:

The Teachers' Retirement Board administers the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). The Board consists of 6 members appointed by the governor to staggered 5-year terms. Membership must include:

- 3 members from the teaching profession who, when appointed, are active members of TRS, with at least 1 of the 3 actively employed as a public school classroom teacher who must hold a class 1, 2, or 4 certificate);
- 1 retired teacher who was a member of the retirement system at the time of retirement; and
- 2 representatives of the public.

The Board hires its own staff, including an executive director.

Executive Director: Shawn Graham, 444-3376, sgraham@mt.gov

Website: <https://trs.mt.gov/>

Responsibilities:

- Constitutionally responsible for administering TRS, including actuarial determinations, as fiduciaries of system participants and their beneficiaries
- Contracts with Cavanaugh MacDonald Consulting, LLC, for actuarial services.
- Provides informational material to employers and members, including retirement planning seminars.
-

Programs, FTE, and Budgeted Funding - FY 2016:

Source: TRS

Programs	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Revenue	Proprietary	Trust Funds	Total Funding	% General Fund
Teachers Retirement System	18.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,482,437	\$2,482,437	0.00%

Compiled by Sheri Scurr, Research Analyst
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Montana Legislative Services Division
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Statutory Advisory Councils

- None.

Most Recent Legislative Audits:

- Financial Compliance Audit for Two Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2014 - 14-09A.
In compliance. No recommendations.

Board Bills Passed - 2015 Session:

- HB 85 - Revised the administration and tax qualification laws of the TRS

Board Bills that Failed - 2015 Session:

- HB 59 - To increase university system supplemental contribution to TRS

Committee Areas of Interest During 2014-14 Interim:

- Monitored implementation of HB 377 (2013), which provided actuarially-require funding to make the system actuarially sound.
- Monitored status of the lawsuit to void the HB 377 provision reducing the Guaranteed Annual Benefit Adjust (GABA) for retirees.

Special Update: From TRS website:

"On June 30, 2015, District Court Judge Mike Menahan ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in Byrne v. State of Montana. The court found that the GABA is part of TRS benefits and is subject to protection under the 'contracts clause' of the Montana Constitution.

The Order On Motions For Summary Judgement states, "The 2013 Legislature passed a law that unnecessarily reduced pension benefits for school teachers and other public education professionals. The undisputed facts in this case demonstrate that increased contributions borne by workers, employers, and the State, which is the guarantor of the TRS, brought the system back to actuarial soundness without cutting any benefits." The court ruled that the GABA will remain at 1.50% for TRS Tier One members. The adjustable GABA (rate determined based on the funding status of the system) will apply to TRS Tier Two members (members hired on or after July 1, 2013)."

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Hot Topics of 2015 Session:

- None.

Statutorily Required Reports:

- Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - FY 2013-2014
- Annual actuarial report - FY 2014
- Experience study - 5-year period ending July 1, 2013
- Special actuarial report required by HB 377 (2013) on progress toward 100% funding. This report is included in the annual actuarial valuation.

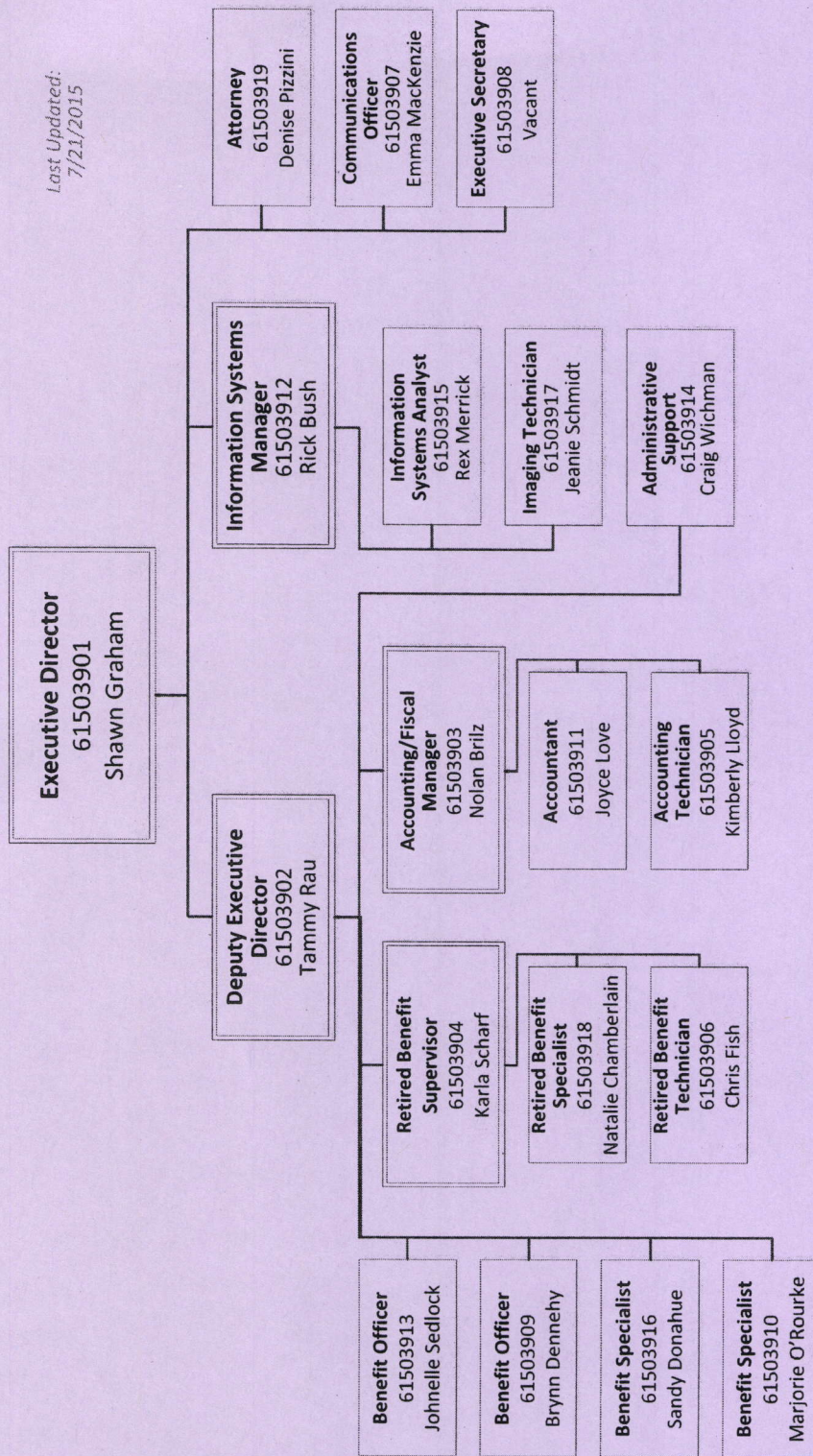
ATTACHMENT

TRS Organizational Chart

Staff Directory

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Teachers' Retirement System



TRS Staff Contact Information

- [Administration](#)
- [Active Members](#)
- [Retired Members & Benefit Recipients](#)
- [Refunds](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Employer Contribution Reporting](#)
- [Information Technology](#)

Administration

Name	Title	Phone
Shawn Graham	Executive Director	(406) 444-3134
Tammy Rau	Deputy Executive Director	(406) 444-3134
Denise Pizzini	Chief Legal Counsel	(406) 444-3134
<u>Emma MacKenzie</u>	Communications Manager	(406) 444-0139
<u>Brynn Dennehy</u>	Executive Secretary	(406) 444-3754
<i>Pending</i>	Administrative Assistant	(406) 444-3999

Agency Administration ♦ Legislative Issues ♦ Administrative Rules ♦ Legal Issues ♦ Public Relations.

Active Members

Name	Title	Phone
<u>Johnelle Sedlock</u>	Benefits Officer	(406) 444-4113
<i>Pending</i>	Benefits Officer	(406) 444-3324
<u>Marjorie O'Rourke</u>	Benefits Specialist	(406) 444-3132
<u>Sandra Donahue</u>	Benefits Specialist	(406) 444-2465

Account Balance Information ♦ Beneficiary Designation ♦ Eligibility for Membership ♦ Estimate of Retirement Benefits ♦ & Divorce ♦ Irrevocable Elections ♦ Member Handbook ♦ Member Statement of Account ♦ Name Change ♦ Purchase of ♦ Redeposit of Withdrawal for Montana TRS Service ♦ Retirement Application Materials ♦ Retirement Benefit Options ♦ Planning ♦ Roll Over, Service Credit ♦ Transfer of Service: PERS to TRS and TRS to PERS ♦ Vesting.

Retired Members & Benefit Recipients

Name	Title	Phone
<u>Karla Scharf</u>	Retired Benefits Manager	(406) 444-3135

<u>Natalie Chamberlain</u>	Retired Benefits Specialist	(406) 444-3185
<u>Chris Fish</u>	Retired Benefits Technician	(406) 444-2441

Address Changes ♦ Retirees & Benefit Recipients ♦ Beneficiary Designation Updates: Retirees ♦ Change of Beneficiary Direct Deposit Setup & Changes ♦ Family Law Orders and Divorce ♦ Federal Income Tax Withholding ♦ Guaranteed Annuity Adjustment (GABA) ♦ Group Health Insurance Premium Withholding ♦ Name Change: Retirees & Benefit Recipients ♦ FICA Earnings Limitations ♦ Return to Work after Retirement ♦ State Income Tax Withholding (**Montana Only**) ♦ Survivor Benefit Excludable Information ♦ 1099-R: Retirees and Benefit Recipients.

Refunds

Name	Title	Phone
<u>Joyce Love</u>	Accountant	(406) 444-3323
<u>Nolan Brilz</u>	Accounting and Fiscal Manager	(406) 444-3679

Member Account Balance Roll-over ♦ Refund of Member Account ♦ Refund to Employer ♦ Tax Excludable Information ♦ Sum Distributions

Membership

Name	Title	Phone
<u>Joyce Love</u>	Accountant	(406) 444-3323
<u>Nolan Brilz</u>	Accounting and Fiscal Manager	(406) 444-3679

Change of Address: Members ♦ Name Change: Member ♦ New Member Packets ♦ Record of Membership Form.

Employer Contribution Reporting

Name	Title	Phone
<u>Joyce Love</u>	Accountant	(406) 444-3323
<u>Nolan Brilz</u>	Accounting and Fiscal Manager	(406) 444-3679
<u>Kim Lloyd</u>	Accounting Technician	(406) 444-2540

Employer Contribution Reporting Deadlines ♦ Employer Monthly Reporting Questions ♦ Overage/Shortage Questions.

Information Technology

Name	Title	Phone
<u>Rick Bush</u>	Information Systems Manager	(406) 444-3395
<u>Rex Merrick</u>	Information System Admin	(406) 444-9293
<u>Jeanie Schmidt</u>	Quality Control Technician	(406) 444-5227

Online Account Support for members, benefit recipients, and employers.